

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
IO-14 OIC-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00  
CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 H-02  
FCC-02 OTPE-00 /143 W  
-----058870 121338Z/41

R 121307Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15142

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OF TWENTIETH SESSION OF  
IMCO SUBCOMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, HELD  
AT LONDON 5-9 SEPT. 1977

1. NAV XX COMPLETED. ALL INTERESTS OF US ADEQUATELY  
CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON. SPECIFIC COMMENTS FOLLOW.
2. ROUTING SYSTEM IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND  
SINGAPORE ACCEPTED IN PART BY SUBCOMMITTEE. INCREASED  
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FLEXIBILITY DEMONSTRATED BY DELEGATIONS FROM INDONESIA,  
MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE FACILITATED COMPROMISE EFFORTS TO  
MEET THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS WHILE REMAINING WITHIN TECHNI-  
CAL LIMITS. DRAFT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION, INCLUDING AS  
ANNEXES THE AMENDED TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES, DEEP  
WATER ROUTES, NAVIGATION RULES, AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDS,  
WAS PREPARED AND WILL BE SENT TO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

OF MSC IN OCTOBER 1977 TO ALLOW FOR ASSEMBLY ADOPTION.  
ADOPTION IS CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF AMENDED PACKAGE  
BY GOVERNMENTS OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.  
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL SEEK APPROVAL FROM THEIR  
GOVERNMENTS WITH A VIEW TO TRANSMITTING THEIR COMMENTS  
TO IMCO SECRETARIAT BEFORE 10 OCTOBER.

3. US HAS PRESSED FOR SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF  
1972 COLREGS. CERTAIN ERRORS, INACCURACIES AND INCON-  
SISTENCIES HAVE BEEN NOTED. THE PROONENTS (PRINCIPALLY  
THE NETHERLANDS, USSR, BELGIUM AND US) OF EXAMINATION OF  
THE RULES HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED. CONSERVATIVE FORCES  
BELIEVE AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE IMPRUDENT AND  
PREMATURE AND WANT TO HOLD UP ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES. US  
DELEGATION HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE A STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT  
1972 COLREGS BE CONSIDERED BY THIS SUBCOMMITTEE ON A  
HIGH PRIORITY BASIS. MULTIPLE WORKING GROUPS ON  
IMPORTANT MATTERS AT THIS MEETING PRECLUDED EITHER  
WORKING GROUP OR PLENARY ACTION ON COLREGS. DELEGATION  
WILL PREPARE STRONG NOTE ON COLREGS MATTERS FOR NEXT  
SESSION.

4. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED US PROPOSALS FOR SECOND  
RADAR AND COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS (CAS) AT LENGTH.  
THIS PROPOSAL IS ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN  
THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES OF 17 MARCH 1977. REQUIRE-  
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MENT OF A SECOND RADAR ON VESSELS OF 10,000 GRT OR MORE  
WAS RECOMMENDED TO BE PRODUCED BY THE JOINT MSC/MEPC  
MEETING NEXT MONTH. MAJORITY OF ADMINISTRATIONS ARE  
AGAINST ANY GENERAL REQUIREMENT FOR CAS UNTIL TECHNICAL  
PARAMETERS ARE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED IN IMCO. THE SUB-  
COMMITTEE PROPOSED THAT SUCH STANDARDS BE DEVELOPED AS  
A MATTER OF URGENCY AND RECOMMENDED THAT AN AD HOC  
WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED AT THE JOINT MSC/MEPC

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
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SESSION TO PURSUE THIS MATTER URGENTLY. THE NETHERLANDS  
AND USSR ENTERED RESERVATIONS ON CAS AND AGAINST FORMA-  
TION OF AD HOC GROUP AT MSC/MEPC IN FINAL MOMENTS OF  
MEETING. UK (WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN) SUPPORTED ESTAB-  
LISHMENT OF AD HOC WORKING GROUP AND EXPEDITING DEVELOP-  
MENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED  
TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC GROUP TO THE JOINT  
MSC/MEPC MEETING IN OCTOBER.

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5. FINALIZED AND APPROVED DRAFT REPORT ON RADAR BEACONS  
AND TRANSPONDERS. DECISION REACHED TO TRANSMIT REPORT  
TO IMCO MEMBERSHIP, AND TO CCIR TO ASSIST STUDY GROUP  
EIGHT AND FOR CONSIDERATION BY SPECIAL PREPARATION MEET-  
ING.

6. REPORT OF INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP (ISWG) ON  
OMEGA DIFFERENTIAL CORRECTION SYSTEMS WAS BEFORE SUB-  
COMMITTEE. DECISION MADE THAT FURTHER MEETING OF ISWG  
NECESSARY TO COMPLETE DRAFT OPERATIONAL STANDARDS AND  
COMPLETE TABULATION OF TEST OF TECHNIQUES. GOVERNMENT OF

FRANCE OFFERED TO HOST FURTHER ISWG MEETING. SUBCOMMITTEE ACCEPTED OFFER. DATE OF MEETING TO BE ESTABLISHED, PROBABLY MARCH 1978. INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE WILL BE HANDLED BY GOF.

7. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, 21ST SESSION, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1977.

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## Message Attributes

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**Secure:** OPEN  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009